

Disadvantages: -

1. Noisy
2. Inflammable and susceptible to dry rot.
3. Splinters if heavy item is dragged on it
4. If not sealed, they are absorbent and cleaning can become laborious and expensive
5. Initial cost is high

Care and cleaning: -

1. Clean regularly and polish with wax polish.
2. Attend to loose blocks and splinters.
3. Resurface by sanding when necessary

SEMI-HARD FINISHES

Thermoplastic floor finish

Thermoplastic floor tiles are made from a variety of asphalt binders with inert fillers and pigments. The tiles are usually 9”square, and are laid on a clean, smooth, rigid surface, set as closely together as possible with the help of an adhesive. They are laid in warm pliable state (thermoplastic) but harden on cooling and may be carried up to the wall to form a small coven skirting. They are polished with water based polish, and are used in bathrooms, cloakrooms, corridors, offices, etc.

Advantages: -

1. Available in variety of colours.
2. Very durable.
3. Easy cleaning.

Disadvantages: -

1. Hard and hence noisy.
2. Cold in appearance.
3. Slippery when wet.
4. Easily harmed by spirits, grease and coarse abrasives.
5. Dent with heavy weights and soften with heat.
6. Scratches occur with grit and sharp edges.
7. Gets badly marked, especially with rubber heels.

Care and cleaning: -

1. Clean regularly.
2. Use water base polish, not spirit based ones.
3. Replace loose or broken tiles as soon as possible.

Vinyl

They are available in two main types.

Vinyl asbestos, which is obtained only in tile form, is slightly flexible and is manufactured from PVC or similar synthetic resins, inert fillers including short fiber asbestos, and pigments. It is available in wide

range of colours and the tiles can be stuck to a solid subfloor with a suitable adhesive.

A flexible form is based on PVC or similar synthetic resins, inert fillers, pigments and plasticisers. It is available in tiles, or sheet form when it is sometimes mounted on canvas or other suitable backing material. There is coven skirting available and the sheet material can be used as a protective skirting.

Both types maybe used in bathrooms, cloakrooms, canteens, offices, etc.

Advantages: -

1. Relatively non-slip.
2. Have great resistance to wear and tear, especially the flexible type.
3. Generally grease and oil resistant.
4. Resistant to acids and alkalis.
5. More resistant to point load than thermoplastic tiles.
6. Not easily scratched.
7. Can be easily washed and polished.

FLOOR CARE AND CLEANING AGENTS

Type	Cleaning agent	Polishes	Caution	Daily maintenance	Periodic care
Epoxy, heavy duty	Damp mopping	Not required		Sweep and dampen or scrub	Does not require sealing
Cement or concrete	Detergents or neutral soap	Not required		Damp mop	Scrub on regular basis
Wood	Liquid solvent	Solvent based wax or polish	Avoid water	Dust mop, heavy powered machine buff, damp mop only if necessary	Buff with no.0 steel wool or rebuffer with nylon padspot. Clean with dilute detergent

Terrazzo	Non-alkaline synthetic detergent	Can be waxed, avoid build-up	Avoid alkaline or acid cleaner. Soap will not stain	Sweep or dust mop. Use non-oily compound	Buff with synthetic or fiber(not steelwool). If worn grind down and reseal
Cork	Soap or detergent (after sealing)		Avoid excess water		
Vinyl asbestos	Soap or detergent	Emulsions or resinous or polymeric	Avoid abrasives	Drymop with non-oily mop or sweep, damp mop with dilute syndet	Buff to remove marks, strip to remove buildup(1-6times/yr) , keep sufficient wax on floor
Asphalt	Dilute solutions of neutral or synthetic detergent	Buffable polish	Avoid heat and cold	Sweep and dry mop, damp mop with dilute, neutral cleaner, buff to remove marks	Touch up with water based polish. Strip, rinse and polish as in new installation
Rubber	Synthetic detergent	Wax with polymer type water emulsion	Consult manufacturer, avoid grease and oil	Sweep or dry mop with treated mop that leaves no oil. Damp mop with dilute syndet	Spot clean at heavy traffic, use safe-for-rubber de-waxed and repeat initial care
Quarry tile and ceramic	syndet	Water emulsion polish or wax with	Avoid abrasives	Sweep or dust mop, damp mop	

		non-slip			
Linoleum	Neutral soap or syndet	Water emulsion and solvent based wax	Avoid excess water and wax in seams. Avoid ammonia, alkaline and acid cleaners	Sweep with chemically treated non-oily mops, damp mop	Scrub lightly and repeat initial care. Do not remove polish. Apply polymeric coating. Strip 1 or 2 times in a yr.
Marble or brick slate	neutral	Wax or polymer	Stains, avoid excess water	Damp mop	Polish by buffing if sealed.



IHM NOTES